

Unpublished Botanical Illustrations Prepared by Thunberg in St. Petersburg

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Unpublished icones, titled *Icones Plantarum Japonicarum (ineditae)*, are preserved in the Komarov Botanical Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Russia. The *Icones* consist of 305 illustrations. Thunberg probably intended these illustrations in the *Icones* as originals not only for his *Icones Plantarum Japonicarum* but also his books and dissertations about Japanese plants. Thus these icones necessitate revision of the established view about Thunberg's botanical illustrations.

Unpublished icones are preserved in the V. L. Komarov Botanical Institute, the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Russia, and bound with a title *Icones Plantarum Japonicarum (ineditae)*. The facsimile edition of the *Icones* will be published (Kimura and Leonov in press).

According to Grubov and Kirpicznikov (in press) the unpublished *Icones* were acquired for St. Petersburg Botanical Garden in 1871. Maximowicz remained notes about the agreement between the illustrated plants and the corresponding Thunberg's specimens. Maximowicz visited Uppsala in 1877 to compare Thunberg's herbarium specimens with the illustrated plants.

These unpublished *Icones* consist of 305 illustrations. Thunberg published 50 illustrations in his *Icones Plantarum Japonicarum* (1794–1805), 39 in *Flora Japonica* (1784), and 19 in other publications. Thus the present *Icones* necessitate revision of the established view about Thunberg's botanical illustrations.

Possibly a great number of these illustrations in the *Icones* were signed, but the part of the signature was often cut away when bound. The illustrations were

drawn by several different artists or students contemporary with Thunberg.

Though there is no duplication of the species drawn between these *Icones* and the published *Icones Plantarum Japonicarum*, a considerable number of illustrations resemble those which were published in *Flora Japonica* and elsewhere. As studied by Nordenstam (in press), the *Icones* were apparently drawn from the herbarium specimens collected by Thunberg and in the most cases could be traced the corresponding specimen on which the illustrations were based.

The illustrations in the *Icones* vary in quality. *Lilium cordifolium* and *Polypodium lacerum* are good examples of the finest work showing the characters and living states. The illustrations in these *Icones* had used for the production of the published illustrations in the most cases in *Flora Japonica* and other works. All seven illustrations of pteridophytes in *Flora Japonica* are considered to be reproduced from those in the *Icones*, though all are reserved. The engravers made some modification in branching and arrangement of pinnae.

In the flowering plants the situation is similar, and there are no illustrations corresponding to the *Icones Plantarum Japonicarum*. Plate 36 agrees with *Elaeagnus umbellata* in t. 14 of *Flora Japonica*, but is modified as to the arrangement of branches and leaves. Tabula 18, *Bladhia japonica*, of *Flora Japonica* corresponds with pl. 55 in these *Icones*, in which is probably reproduced from the plant drawn on the righthandside with great modifications. The source of *Salvia japonica*, t. 5 of *Flora Japonica*, is probably pl. 5 of the *Icones*.

Thunberg published the illustration of *Weigela japonica* in a paper of *Weigela japonica* (Thunberg 1780), and reproduced it in *Flora Japonica* (t. 16). Plate 46 in the *Icones* seems to be the corresponding illustration. In the case of *Houttuynia cordata* the illustrations in a paper of *Houttuynia cordata* (1783) and in *Flora Japonica* (1784) are considered to be reproduced from pl. 28 in the *Icones*.

The plant in pl. 132 corresponds with the authentic specimen of *Laurus pedunculata* Thunb. ex Murray. The specimen, however, does not belong to the family Lauraceae, and Nakai (1927) considered this to be a species of *Hedyotis* in the family Rubiaceae. *Commelina japonica* Thunb. is illustrated in pl. 101. As Faden (1977) pointed out that this species, ranging India to Java, does not occur in Japan. The catalogue of all the illustrations in these *Icones* are prepared by

Ohba (in press).

Thunberg probably prepared these illustrations in the *Icones* as originals not only for his *Icones Plantarum Japonicarum* and also his books and dissertations about Japanese plants. The unpublished *Icones* are thus very valuable. Further careful botanical and also artistical examination will be made from various points of view.

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